

Continued from front

## Commission struggles with jail problems

of their cells after midnight into an area that they shouldn't have been in and got a plate off the wall that someone should have seen them taking off during that time."

Lewis then asked that the commission instruct the county administrator to "contact somebody that knows how to build jails, fix jails, put new locks on the [cell] doors, take whatever steps are necessary to fix the doors, fix the vents and whatever needs to be done to the jail to prevent any further escapes."

Commissioner Robert Stephens made a motion to do whatever is necessary to keep the prisoners in jail. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Len Averett.

An amendment to the motion by Commissioner Lallymple to use the \$37,000 that had been approved previously for building construction in this year's budget for this purpose passed by a 6-1 vote. Averett cast the lone opposing vote.

Stephens' motion as amended passed by a unanimous vote.

Coffee County Sheriff Ben Moates addressed the commission saying, "I share the concern of every commissioner here, especially when it comes to escape."

The sheriff noted that he is willing to take the responsibility upon himself and the members of his staff for the custody and control of the inmates placed in the county jail; however, he did say that there is not a correctional facility in existence that is designed and built to hold every person all the time.

"We're going to continue to do what we can, with the help of the commission, to correct these problems to hopefully ensure this [escape] will not happen again," added Sheriff Moates.

The sheriff commented on the problem of the cells not locking by noting that the computerized system which indicates to the jailer if a cell door is not secure has been

causing some problems. Moates also indicated that the cell door can be tampered with so that they will not close properly.

After several more minutes of discussion between the sheriff and the commission, it was concluded that the bottom line was that the mechanical problems with the jail would be fixed.

Commissioners Tom Grimsley and Dairymple reported that their recent trip to the Nation's Capitol was a positive one.

Their meetings with the local Congressional delegation was well received on projects such as the lake (water reservoir and recreation), further development of the Coffee County Water Authority, and major road connectors such as I-10 and AL Hwy. 167. They promised their support in all these undertakings.

In other business the commission took the following actions:

\*\*\*Voted to honor the Elba Police Department's request for assistance in funding additional E-911 operators. The county will provide \$750 per month through September of 2000. The E-911 Board had already agreed to provide an additional \$750 through September 2000.

\*\*\*A motion was made that all department heads be invited to the commission meetings to include any work session held by the commission.

\*\*\*Approved sending out bid invitations on motorgrader blades.

\*\*\*Voted to turn over funds (\$2,600) received from the Social Security Administration on behalf of eligible prisoners to the sheriff for law enforcement expenses.

\*\*\*Approved sending out invitations to bid on the publication of the voters list.

\*\*\*Approved \$3,300 to be used toward the landscaping of the Elba Courthouse.

Small ads are read . . .

. . . see, you are reading this one!!

## BENTON'S

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## Tips For Getting On Line

(NAPS)—By learning more about what you can get online, you may be in line for some savings. Not all Internet Service Providers (ISPs) are alike. Here's what to look for:

1. You don't have to spend a lot just to get online. Some providers, such as Surftee.com, offer unlimited Internet access for as low as \$14.95 per month (20 to 40 percent lower than most).

2. Look for unlimited dial-up Internet access with speeds up to 56K. There should be no set-up fees or usage limits applied and members should be able to access their account from a wide variety of phone numbers.

3. E-mail should be free. Additional free mailboxes are included by the top providers.

4. Customer support should be available 24-hours-a-day, seven-days-a-week with a toll-free number. Some ISPs also allow you to try the service without risk. Surftee.com, for example, comes with a 30-day money back guarantee.

5. Some services even pay you for referring friends and family. Surftee.com pays members \$20 for each new member referral.

To sign-up or order free start-up software, visit [www.surftee.com](http://www.surftee.com) or call 888/678-7373.

## Elba General Hospital & Nursing Home sponsoring cancer detection program

The Breast & Cervical Cancer early Detection Program of Alabama is being sponsored locally by the Elba General Hospital & Nursing Home.

The program, which will last approximately an hour, will be held on March 22, 2000 at 2:00 p.m. in the conference room of Elba General Hospital. It is free and the public is invited to attend.

The speaker for the program will be Jean Daniels-Terry, Educator with the Coffee County Family Services Center.

This program provides breast and cervical screenings for women who meet the following eligibility guidelines:

- Primarily women age 40 and older
- Women without insurance or who are uninsured

## City Council moves forward with improvement projects

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## Red Cross to hold Health & Safety Classes

The American Red Cross of Coffee County will hold Health and Safety Classes at the Enterprise Civic Center, 711 W. Crawford St., Enterprise, on the following dates:

Adult CPR - Mon., Mar. 20, 5:30-9:30 p.m.

Infant and Child CPR - Tues., Mar. 21, 5:30-9:30 p.m.

First Aid - Thurs., Mar. 23, 5:30-9:30 p.m.

Cost will be \$15.00 for the CEAS book, which will cover all classes, and a fee of \$15.00 for each class.

For more information concerning the program and to register, call Jan Wicker at 897-2257 ext. 225.

are actually using this leg this week. Taylor Mill Road lacks about 30 days of work. Highway 84 East should be completed next week.

The Samson Highway is expected to be finished in about two weeks, and Smith Avenue still has about 30 days of work left.

The much smaller CDBG grand funded sewer work on Highway 84 West is behind, but moving forward, Morrow said.

The clerk also reported that condemned signs have been posted on the Elba side of the old railroad trestle. A recent fire burned cross ties almost into and it is actually

dangerous to try to stand on them. He said additional work will be done soon to prevent someone from getting hurt in this area.

Morrow said he is working with SE Alabama Regional Planning to find grant funds to purchase a larger emergency generator for the police department. The present generator does not put out enough power to operate all the normal police needs and the new 911 equipment.

Mayor Grimes told council members that the last six homes in the flood buy-out have been approved as meeting federal qualifications and will be purchased as soon as

possible.

From the Desk of:  
State Representative Terry Spicer

## House Votes to Increase Bomb Threat Penalties

Lawmakers want the bomb threats to stop. House members voted unanimously recently to pass a bill that will make bomb threats punishable for up to 10 years in prison. The bills were sponsored by Representative Howard Hawk (D - Arab) and Senator Phil Poole (D - Moundville).

"Alabama schools have been plagued with an increased number of bomb threats over the past year. While it is a relief that the threats have been false alarms so far, each one terrorizes our children and poses a serious disruption in school classes," states Representative Terry Spicer (D - Elba). "Almost every Representative has had something happen either in or near their district."

Under current law, such threats are a Class A misdemeanor that carries a maximum penalty of a \$2,000 fine. With the passage of this bill, the penalty becomes a Class C Felony.

"I have worked on this issue for several years. I think the reports of school violence in other states compounded with the growing number of school closings due to these threats has pushed this issue to the front burner," said Representative Hawk, author of the House version of the bill. "We hope that increasing the penalty will give local District Attorneys a stronger tool to crack down on these terrorists."

The proposal has earned endorsements by the Alabama District Attorney Association and Governor Don Siegelman. The bill goes to the to the Governor's desk for signature where it is expected to be signed.

She said in the past, communities participating in the Main Street

Program have shown figures of a \$60 private investment to every dollar invested by the local or county government.

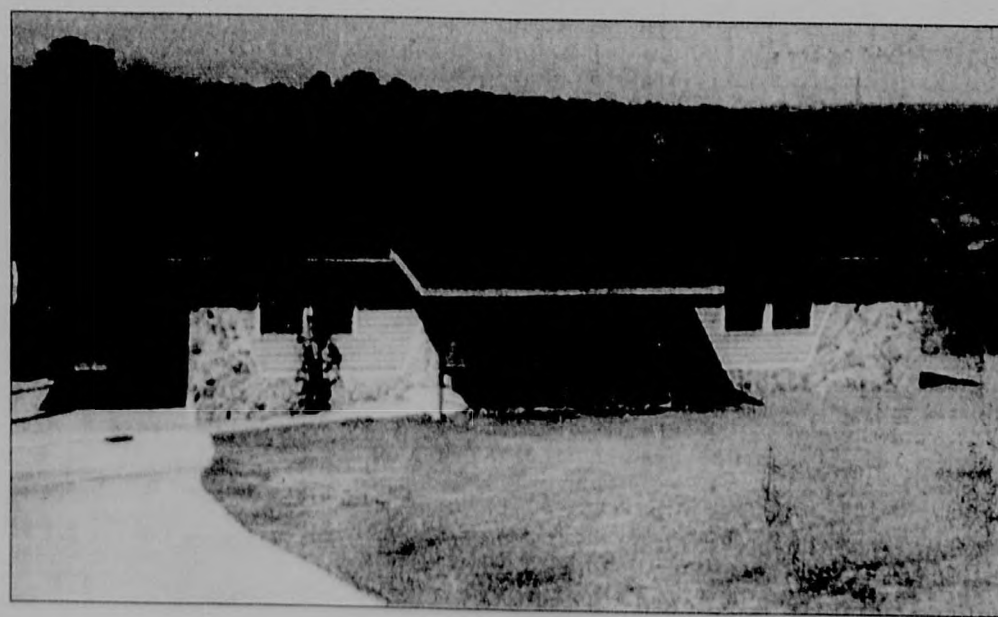
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Cassidy presented those in attendance with a list of criteria for participation in the Alabama Main Street Program. The list included such criteria as: A commitment to survey historic resources in the downtown area and to nominate those structures eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places; A commitment to encourage property owners to return facades of historic commercial buildings to their original appearance and to retain any historically or architecturally significant interiors; Development of a broad-based community support for the comprehensive Four Point Main Street Approach to revitalization of the downtown area; Evidence of

Antiques and Uniques to the city's business industry last Friday, March 17, with a ribbon cutting ceremony. Several local officials and leaders were on hand to help welcome Elba's newest piece of history into business. Recollections, Antiques and Uniques is located on the historic downtown square in the old Martin's building. The store's owner, Pat Powell, said she plans to have a grand opening celebration at a later date. Those present for Friday's ribbon cutting ceremony were (from left to right): Jeannette Tillis; Dawn Austin; Shay Johnson, Jr.; Miss Elba; Chad White; Ronnie Hammond, councilman representing the City of Elba; Aaron Powell; Pat Powell, owner; Nikki Fuller, Future Little Miss Elba; Kaye Whitworth, executive director of the Elba Chamber of Commerce; Roland Powell, owner; Don Napper; Leslie Stinson, Miss Elba; and Herby McCall.

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# The Elba Clipper

Volume 103, Number 41

50 Cents

Elba, Alabama

Thursday, March 23, 2000

1 Section, 12 Pages

## DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION FOR COMMUNITIES

### Alabama Main Street Program explained

by Linda Hodge, Staff Writer

The Alabama Main Street Program was the topic of discussion Monday evening in Elba as a representative of the program visited with local officials, business leaders and interested citizens.

Alta Cassidy, state coordinator of the Alabama Main Street Program, spoke to the crowd of approximately 30 people about the possibility of bringing the main street program to Elba.

"This is a downtown revitalization program for communities with historic buildings," said Cassidy. "It is designed for cities under 50,000 in population."

She said the Alabama Main Street Program is administered by the Alabama Historical Commission (AHC).

The program was developed in the early 1980s when AHC offered grants to towns interested in doing something to preserve their downtown commercial districts.

Cassidy said unfortunately there still is no direct funding for the Main Street Program, but the matching grant programs remain.

"This is basically a self-help program," said Cassidy. "We do offer the grants, which require matching funds from the local government, but most of the funds for the Main Street Program must come from private investment."

She said in the past, communities participating in the Main Street



Program have shown figures of a \$60 private investment to every dollar invested by the local or county government. Several communities which have participated in the Alabama Main Street Program include: Alexander City, Anniston, Decatur, Dothan, Florence, Gadsden, Greenville, Opelika, Selma, Tusculumbia and Winfield. In these cities, Cassidy said the program has reportedly helped in creating 4,035 net new jobs, 1,030 net new businesses, \$66,553,261 in public improvements and \$217,193,241 in private sector investment in building rehabilitation projects. She said these cumulative reinvestment statistics reflect participation through Dec. 31, 1998.

## Piggly Wiggly Mid-South, Inc. employees buy company

On Feb. 29, the employees of Piggly Wiggly Mid-South, Inc. through its Employee Stock Ownership Plan (ESOP) purchased the assets of the Company from Mr. Kenneth Storey, owner and president, for an undisclosed amount. The sale includes the Elba Market Place store located at 638 N. Claxton Avenue, Elba, Ala. Jeffery Nowling of Elba serves as the lead manager of this store.

The new company will continue to operate under the Piggly Wiggly Mid-South, Inc. name at least for the near future. The ESOP company will operate approximately 85 supermarkets in eight southern and mid-southern states, with its headquarters located in Sikeston, Mo. The company will be divided into three divisions, each being managed by a vice president.

Gary Duncan, formerly division manager of the Southern Division,

has been promoted to vice president of the Southern Division. He will operate out of the division office located in Hartford, Duncan also has been appointed to the Board of Directors for the company.

Mr. Ron Watkins, previously the company's chief financial officer, has been named president and CEO of the new company.

"The next several years will be exciting times for the company and the employees," Duncan said. "Employee ownership gives each employee an extra incentive to look at their job from a different light. As ESOP members, employees will look at ways of improving the operation of their store, improving operational efficiencies, and most of all, taking good care of the customer."

Company-wide meetings are scheduled to be held with all employees in the near future.

by Linda Hodge, Staff Writer

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PUTTING ON A SHOW...Contestants in the Miss Elba and Zion Chapel pageants last Saturday night, March 18, began the evening having a whole lot of fun as they entertained the audience by performing a dance number to the music of country star, Shania Twain. Above, 1999 Jr. Miss Elba Shay Johnson (left) and 1999 Miss Elba Leslie Stinson (right) lead the way during the performance as Miss Elba contestant Valerie Moore (back left) and Miss Zion Chapel contestant Kayla Eddins (back, right) enthusiastically follow. After performing the dance number together, all the contestants showed their individual talents as they competed for the crown.

## City of Elba receives grant for 2 police cars

by Marvin McLWain, Editor

The City of Elba and the police department received some good news from the Governor's Office Tuesday.

In a fax to *The Elba Clipper*, Governor Don Siegelman announced that he had notified Elba Mayor James Grimes that he had approved the city's request for a \$43,697 grant to purchase two (2) new police cars with updated equipment.

"Law enforcement officials need safe and up-to-date equipment in order to adequately serve and protect their community," Gov. Siegelman said. "I am pleased to provide these funds to the City of Elba to purchase new patrol cars."

Funding for the grant was provided to the state through the Local Law Enforcement Block Grant program of the U. S. Department of Justice. The Alabama Department of Economic and Community

Affairs (ADECA), directed by Dwayne Freeman, administers the grant.

Elba Police Chief R. W. "Ronnie" Whitworth was pleased to hear that the grant had been approved. The application was made several months ago with the assistance of Fredrick Hamilton, who is with the Southeast Alabama Regional Planning and Development commission.

"These new patrol cars will have the latest equipment available installed in them," said Chief Whitworth. "This will include new radios and video cameras with taping equipment."

He said that the city has been fortunate during his tenure in that it has only had to purchase and pay for totally two new patrol cars. He pointed out that other



## EDITORIAL

## BRAINSTORMS

With Ferrin Cox

Tuesday was election day in Alabama, or more correctly, it was voting day. The only item on the ballot was the increase in corporate income tax to 6.5%, and the interest from the voting public was almost nil. There is natural opposition to additional taxes, and this one was no exception. Many people on the streets were complaining about the cost of holding the special election just for this one issue, especially when regular elections will be held in May, while others just knew this was really a hidden tax on them personally. The bottom line was a bundle of voter apathy.

The issue of allowing religious groups to be official public school organizations continues to stir debate. We don't have the ultimate answer but share the concerns of school officials that to officially recognize any religious group would open the door for the cults, witches, etc. A letter to the Editor this week points out that these types usually like to work in the dark. That is true, but exceptions abound. Look at what happened in Uganda several days ago... hundreds of men, women and children in that religious cult group died in a fire, inside a locked building that was officially registered with the government and openly practicing their offbeat religion. Their beliefs, or the beliefs of their leader, included the idea the world was coming to an end on December 31, 1999... then saying oops, we meant December 31, 2000, etc. Somehow in their twisted thinking they were to die part toward ending the world by committing suicide. Now, Uganda officials are re-examining their rules allowing these people to organize and meet openly. People need to worship God more than to die today... and openly, but is American society ready to embrace the other established world religions in our schools and at the same time protect our citizens from the likes of those who died in that terrible fire last week in Africa?

We have our own personal opinions dealing with the death of the little six year old Ramsey girl in Colorado a couple of years ago. Our opinion of the child's parents didn't improve a bit now that they are out promoting the book they have written giving their so-called "theory" on how the murder happened in their home during that fateful Christmas holiday. Hogwash!

It is a bit frightening to find Hillary Clinton promoting something which we have written about previously here in this column. However, a stopped clock is right twice a day and so we will graciously accept Lady Hillary's support. Recently she expressed concern over the possible misuse of the drug Ritalin on active young children. Our position is a bit harsher in that we strongly believe it is often used on the child for the convenience of the parent who doesn't have the inclination nor time to deal with a normal, growing, active youngster. The innocence of a happy childhood is muted when parents take a doctor into prescribing this numbing drug for the sole purpose of quieting down normal children. Then we suspect some parents use the drug when a hand on the butt would have done more to train the child to mind their manners. Oh well, good luck on this one Hillary.

Election year politics in Coffee County are getting off to a mighty slow start this year. Even though the Republican nominations have been underway for over a month and the Democrats for two weeks, very few candidates have yet to pay their fees and sign up, even though several have told us they are running hard for election or reelection. Oh well, politics has changed drastically during the past 30 years and this is probably just another of those changes. It may also mean that none of us will get burnt out with political promises between now and election day!

### Got Something To Sell?? Try The Classified Section of The Elba Clipper

## ELBA GENERAL HOSPITAL REPORT

Elba General Hospital had the following patients admitted during the time period of March 14, 2000 through March 20, 2000. They were: Lillian Pynes, Shannon Catrett, Ellis Eddins, Doug Armstrong, Arkie Hodge, Hester McGowan, Ruth Harselton, Veneria Boutwell, Lillian Childs, Willie Ray Chism, Francis H. Johnson, Gloria Nowling, Joyce Johnson, Tiffany Parrish, Elizabeth Jane Bass, Lenora Burks, Mary King, Robert Whitley, Andrew Bryan, Estelle Divine, Rosa Tyson, Alberta Martin, Justin Simmons, Annise Coleman, Lorenzo Johnson, Mary Dawson, Fredrick Pruitt, Brenda Johnson, Hudson Ennis, Lois Barton.

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Coffee County & Surrounding Counties - \$17 per year  
6 Months - \$5, including city & state tax  
Alabama Counties - \$19 per year - including tax  
6 months - \$5  
Outside Alabama - \$21 per year - 6 months - \$1



Pictured above: Coffee County farmers were among 350 members of the Alabama Farmers Federation who attended the annual legislative trip March 4-8 in Washington, D.C. The group met with congressmen and senators from Alabama, as well as, with several national agricultural leaders. From left are: Max and Kathy Bozeman, Congressman Terry Everett, Philip Martin, and Callie and Doyce Jones.

### Alabama farmers discuss ag issues with national leaders

Low prices, adverse weather conditions and foreign market restrictions of American-grown crops made 1999 one of the worst years in recent history for many Alabama farmers. Those topics and more were on the minds of nearly 350 Alabama farmers who were part of the Alabama Farmers Federation Washington Legislative Trip March 4-8.

"Our members look forward to the opportunity to talk directly to our nation's leaders," said Alabama Farmers Federation President Jerry Newby. "It's an opportunity for our government leaders to be able to put a face on agriculture and understand how the decisions they make will affect rural families."

In addition to touring the nation's Capital, Federation members heard from some of the top agriculture officials in the nation. Other topics during the meetings included a briefing on USDA programs and international trade. Members had breakfast with their congressional representatives and lunch with U.S. Senators Richard Shelby and Jeff Sessions.

Shelby and Sessions each were honored by the Alabama Farmers Federation for their continued hard work on behalf of Alabama agriculture. Newly-presented each senator with a special limited edition print by award-winning artist Jack Delaney from Ozark.

### From the Desk of: State Representative Terry Spicer

Cellular phone service providers may become under the supervision of the Public Service Commission

The House Committee on State Government approved a bill recently that will bring cellular phone service companies under the supervision of the Public Service Commission. Currently, cellular service and service providers are exempt from PSC oversight. House Bill 579 by Representative Terry Spicer (D - Elba) removes that exemption.

"Cellular service has grown at an incredible pace in Alabama. So many companies and so many service options are now available," states Representative Spicer. "By placing cellular communications under the umbrella of the Public Service Commission, we are ensuring that cell phone customers are getting the quality and value of service that they are expecting to get when they sign a contract with a cellular company."

A key piece of legislation in the Governor's agenda, the bill will empower the PSC to monitor the quality of service and the type of service contracts that cellular companies are offering throughout Alabama.

Two elements are motivating the bill: economic development and 911 services in rural areas. So many areas in rural Alabama are in need of strong economic boosts, but do not have quality cellular service, even though many providers claim full state coverage. In today's

Rep. Terry Spicer

technological era, cell phones are critical tools for communication for business and industry. Improving the service offered in these areas will help attract new companies and encourage expansion among existing businesses.

Second, many rural areas are working towards employing Emergency 911 upgrades.

Technology is such that the exact location of a person calling 911 from cellular phone can be determined through satellite tracking systems. Many states are upgrading to this emergency system, including Georgia. Without quality cellular service, the new system cannot operate accurately.

The proposal does not levy any additional fees to cellular companies or to their customers, and the PSC does not require any additional appropriation.

I think anyone would agree even with Madelyn Murray O'Hair that a prayer that is forced on anyone regardless of their religious convictions is not the way to go. But I think that just about everyone agrees that students should have the right to have student initiated, student led prayers and prayer groups. Just as it would be wrong for anyone to force their religion on anyone, it is equally wrong for anyone

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Mr. Cox:

The Prayer Club, Believers in Christ at Zion Chapel High School, with the assistance of Mr. Glenn Reeder have petitioned the Coffee County Board of Education to allow them to meet and organize during school hours as other clubs are allowed to do. To this day they have been refused this request. At the beginning neither Mr. Reeder nor the board were aware of other school systems who allowed students to meet during school hours. Since we have learned that there are many systems who allow students to meet during school hours, I can understand that the board might be a little reluctant to allow students to do something that is not allowed in other schools especially something as controversial as school prayer. But I can't understand why they would continue to refuse the student's request since this is something that is done very successfully in other systems. I can understand the board being reluctant in doing something that would be in conflict with current laws and court opinions. I can't understand them being unwilling to do something that is in accordance with current laws and court opinions. The Equal Access Act frees the students to be able to have their privileges if the privileges are extended to other clubs. Anyone desiring to know more about the Equal Access Act can find quite a bit of information on the internet.

I think anyone would agree even with Madelyn Murray O'Hair that a prayer that is forced on anyone regardless of their religious convictions is not the way to go. But I think that just about everyone agrees that students should have the right to have student initiated, student led prayers and prayer groups. Just as it would be wrong for anyone to force their religion on anyone, it is equally wrong for anyone

to force non religion on anyone. I would not be disappointed if Madelyn Murray O'Hair were sitting on the Coffee County Board of Education and she voted against the students at Zion Chapel High School being able to have a prayer club that meets during school hours. This I would expect from her. I have been disappointed however to see pastors and deacons that are on the board take a hard stand against the prayer club. I have been disappointed in the way the board has played on the fears of the community to support their position. They have convinced a lot of people that if they allowed the prayer club to meet during school hours that it would open it up for Satanist, The Klan, Skinheads and some groups that I can't mention. What they fail to realize is that these groups prefer darkness and would not wish being in the open where they could be seen. Also they don't have very much confidence in this community to think that such groups would be formed here.

I would like to take this opportunity to publicly encourage the school board to approve the student's request. I do believe that the board is made up of some good men and women. I feel that once they fully understand the will of the people they will eventually do the right thing. I would encourage as many of the parents that possibly can to contact the board and voice their support for the students.

It is my prayer that God will bless the Zion Chapel School System and the other schools in Coffee County.

Larry Dickey  
2840 Highway 87  
Jack, AL 36346  
1-334-897-2985

### EXPRESS YOUR VIEWS WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

(Continued from Page One)

## MAIN

At this point, she said those interested in bringing the main street program to Elba should probably look at getting some demographic information together in an attempt to try and see what avenue would work best in revitalizing the downtown area.

Cassidy said the downtown area of Elba already is a light industry because the infrastructure, strength, utility lines, waste disposal and other services are there. The idea of the Alabama Main Street Program is to take that light industry and design a plan to make it economically sound again.

The results of this case and the disposition of the others will be reported when the final paperwork (judge's orders) reaches the Circuit Clerk's office.

On Monday all but one of the cases were either settled through plea bargain, guilty plea, continued, or not prosessed. A lone jury was "dead" to hear the case of State of Alabama vs Darrell Riley. He is charged with one count of sexual abuse in the first degree.

The department's K-9 Unit is a 1998 Blazer that was acquired after the 1998 flood from military surplus. Although the vehicle was an '84 model it had low mileage.

"Eventually, we would like every police officer to have a vehicle assigned to him providing they live inside the city limits," said Chief Whitworth. "This has been proven by other departments to be an economically sound idea."

Officers tend to take better care of a vehicle when they are assigned a vehicle and have the sole responsibility of it upkeep and maintenance, and will be held responsible for failure to do so.

The chief expects it to be several months before the new cars are actually placed in service since there is a long waiting list for new cars. Whitworth expects the council to approve the purchase of the new car purchases at its next meeting.

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## AREA DEATHS

WALLACE J. (BUTTON) MORRIS

Mr. Wallace J. (Button) Morris, age 63, of 219 Orion St., Troy, Ala., died March 16, 2000 at Baptist Medical Center in Montgomery. Funeral services were held March 18, 2000 at Shiloh Baptist Church in Coffee County with Rev. Sasser officiating. Burial followed in the Shiloh Baptist Church Cemetery with Dillard Funeral Home of Troy directing.

Survivors include his wife, Willie Maude Morris; Troy, two daughters, Debra Sanders and Sherry Crook, both of Elba; three grandchildren: Justin Deal, Joshua Crook, Kayle Crook; several stepchildren and step-grandchildren; five brothers: Earnest James Morris, Jacksonville, Fla., James Morris, C.E. Morris, Raymond Morris and Joe Mack Morris, all of Elba.

CLARA ONYX EAGERTON TILLMAN

Mrs. Clara Onyx Eagerton Tillman, age 84, of 1540 County Road 105, Jack, Ala., died March 17, 2000 at Edge Regional Medical Center.

### CARDS OF THANKS

CARD OF THANKS

I would like to express my deepest appreciation for your many prayers, cards, food, phone calls and words of encouragement during my recent illness and hospital stay.

I will always be grateful for your kind deeds.  
VIRGINIA BARNES  
3-23-Hc

GOODSON FAMILY

The family of Lula B. "Sweetie" Goodson would like to express our sincere thanks for all the calls, visits, food, flowers and other acts of kindness shown during her illness and death. We especially would like to thank the staff of the Elba Nursing Home for the care they provided.

Your expressions of love and sympathy will always be cherished.  
Mag. God bless you,  
The Family of Lula Beatrice (Sweetie) Goodson  
3/23pd

FULLER FAMILY

Thank You never seems to be enough when someone has done so much. It is times such as this when we realize how much love our little town holds in the hearts of our friends. The cards, food, flowers and visits, along with all the prayers, keeps us strong to this day. "He will not forget your work and the love you have shown him." Hebrews 6:10  
The Lloyd E. Fuller Family  
3/23pd

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age 71, of Andalusia, Ala., died March 18, 2000 after a brief battle with leukemia.

She was born in 1928 in Coffee County, Ala., the daughter of Annie Jewel Smith and Clarence William Ellenburg and stepdaughter of Nannie Bess Smith.

She graduated from Andalusia High School in 1946 and from Alabama Girls' College in 1949. She worked as a bookkeeper in Andalusia. For the past four years, Mrs. Groom lived in Birmingham.

Funeral services were held March 21, 2000 at Foreman Funeral Home in Andalusia with Rev. Claude Keenan officiating. Burial followed at Liberty Cemetery near Elba with Foreman Funeral Home directing.

Survivors include her son, James Carol Mathis Groom, two granddaughters: Carmen and Madison Groom, all of Birmingham; and several cousins, including: Dorothy "Bud" Davis and Theodore "Bud" Davis, Elba.

STELLA MAE TYSON

Mrs. Stella Mae Tyson, born Sept. 1, 1933 in Coffee County, Ala., died March 9, 2000 at Enterprise Medical Center.

Funeral services were held March 14, 2000 at Harris Temple Church of God in Christ with Elder Terrence Ellison officiating. Burial followed in the Evergreen Cemetery of Elba with Hammond Funeral Home directing.

Mrs. Tyson was preceded in death by her parents, Lester and Stella Tyson; three brothers, Albert Oscar Tyson Sr., Dalton Tyson and Winston Tyson; and one sister, Essie Lee Tyson.

Survivors include four sons: William Tyson, Elba; Joe Mack (Ann), Montgomery; Willie (Caryn), Baltimore, Md.; Jesse (Anglin), Enterprise; one daughter, Annie Jean Tyson, Elba; 11 grandchildren, four great-grandchildren; two brothers: Clinton (Lela) Tyson, Elba; James L. Tyson, Sarasota, Fla.; and one sister-in-law: Lizzie Tyson, Elba.

MARY SUE ELLENBURG GROOM

Mrs. Mary Sue Ellenburg Groom, age 71, of Andalusia, Ala., died March 18, 2000 after a brief battle with leukemia.

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# CHURCH



**THE ELBA FIRST ASSEMBLY OF GOD DRAMA TEAM** participated in the Southeast Alabama Fine Arts Competition on March 4. There were 32 teams competing and Elba received second place with superior ratings and an invitation to compete on the state level. Pictured are: (kneeling from left) Anna Anderson, Keri Hobbs, Lyndsay Lawford, Kaci Grantham; (2nd row) Darren Dawkins, Chris Summerlin, Caleb Dyess, Natasha Brooks, Tracy Banks; (3rd row) Rick Smith, Betsy Adkinson, Katie Dyess, Natasha Bannin, Josh Lawford. Also participating in the Female Solo division was Lauren Moore who received superior ratings with an invitation to compete on the state level.

## Harris Temple C.O.G.I.C. Workshop Appreciation Service to be held

Harris Temple C.O.G.I.C. will host a Workshop Appreciation Service honoring Bro. Marcus Reese on March 30-31 with the concert being held Saturday, April 1 at 6:30 p.m. Clinicians will be Elder W.K. Ellison and Bro. Marcus Reese. The workshop rehearsals will begin at 6:30 p.m. nightly. There will be registration fee of \$5.

## NOTICE

The annual meeting of the Danley's Cross Roads cemetery committee will be held on March 25, at 9 a.m. in the County voting house near the cemetery. All persons who are interested in the upkeep of the cemetery are encouraged to attend.

## Mt. Olive children & youth to present Easter Program April 9th

The children and youth ministry, along with members of Mt. Olive Baptist Church, will present a dramatic Easter program on Sunday, April 9, at 6 p.m.

A Walk to the Cross offers a touching look at Jesus Christ moving in the hearts of the people He walked with, ultimately laying down His life for all.

Everyone is invited to attend this special program. Mt. Olive Baptist Church is located on County Road 355, Elba (Pine Level Community).

## Vanderbilt Holiness Church to host gospel singing

Vanderbilt Holiness Church will have a gospel singing Saturday, March 25, beginning at 6 p.m. featuring Coleen Beasley from Headland, Ala. Everyone is invited to attend. Vanderbilt Holiness Church is located on Coffee County Road 114, one mile past Southland.

## PASTOR'S CORNER

REV. HOMER MOORE  
FIRST ASSEMBLY OF GOD

## "My joy, Your joy"

JOHN 15:11

"These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be made full."

What was the joy that Jesus had? The joy that Jesus possessed was His absolute self-surrender to His Father. His joy came to Him just knowing that He was doing what His Father had sent Him to do.

Hebrews 12:2 tells us that, "before Him endured the cross, thy shame, that thou mightest be able to say, O my God, I have not been ashamed of Him."

Jesus prayed that our joy might be found in the same way that we too as His creations, might find our true source of joy in doing the will of the Father. But what is so sad is that before we ever get a chance of experiencing this wonderful joy, we are caught up in the every day circumstances of life. The problems of life keep many so preoccupied that they never get to experience the joy of the Lord as He desired for them.

As we build a right relationship with God, we will also find that we have found the joy that has been missing in our lives. For there is no real joy outside the kingdom of God. I believe that God intended us as children of the living God to be joyful people. But we let the cares of life rob us from having this joy of the Lord. Some of us need what the book of Proverbs says is to have just a good laugh at life. "For a merry heart doeth good like a medicine," Prov. 17:22. I believe that laughter is a tranquilizer with no side effects.

There is a story told about a man Goodman Baptist Church to celebrate annual Homecoming services on Sunday, April 30th.

Goodman Baptist Church will celebrate Homecoming, April 30, beginning at 10:45 a.m. Everyone is invited.

by the name of Norman Cousins which was known for bringing joy and laughter in the lives of many through his writing on true life experiences. He had been invited by a group of physicians to meet with cancer patients at a hospital.

He told him he had lost a quarter in a pay phone. "Operator," he said, "I put in a quarter and didn't get my number." She said, "Sir, if you will give me your name and address, we'll mail the coin to you." So he recited a full and long lengthy response of all the steps and procedures, expense and time involved in returning his simple coin, and finally he concluded and said, "Now, operator, why don't you just return my coin and let's be friends?" She repeated her offer and then asked, "Have you by chance tried the coin return plunger. He hadn't, but when he did, the phone box speared out close to five dollars worth of change! The operator said, "Sir, will you please deposit the coin in the phone box?" Cousins replied, "If you will give me your name and address I will be glad to mail you the coin."

The patients all exploded in laughter and cheers. Then one of the physicians asked, "How many of you came in today with cares and pains?" They all raised a hand. "How many of you in the past few minutes had less or no pain at all?" All nodded their head. "YES!"

Laughter is still a God-given medicine for the cares of life. It is one of the best pain medications ever. Allow God to bring His "joy" real "joy" back into your life, and have yourself a good laugh.

The sanctuary was illuminated by large ivory pillar candles interspersed within the arrangements of ferns, with spiral votive candles completing the setting. The Trinity motif was enhanced with three floral designs placed on traditional columns. The central column held a massive arrangement of ginger, gladioli, alstroemeria, carnations, snapdragons, dendrobium orchids, and Virginia roses.

Jennifer Terry Douglas, Bossier City, La., served as matron of honor. Bridesmaids were Catherine

McQueen, Joan Marsh, Dot Moxie, Carol Hirschfield, Becky Brand, Joyce Howell, Hilda Hagins, Celeste Kelly, Billie Jo Mills, Bonnie Morgan, Frances Nichols, Pat Revels, Bobbie Roney, Betty Story, Hazel Stevens, Pat Williams, Jackie Ouisberry, Mary Hudson, Liz Cassidy, Michelle Plagenhoef, Mary Watkins, Sally Peden, Suzie Blackwell, Amelia Brown, Martha Ellis, Judy Watson, Debbie Shelton and June Waites.

Mrs. Joseph Wheeler Herod entertained the bride and her childhood friends with a brunch at her home on Oct. 2, 1999.

On Oct. 2, 1999, an engagement celebration to honor the bride-elect and her fiancé was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. William Harrison Warren, aunt of the bride, Foy and Jack Anderson, Jimmie Ayrett, Joyce and Herbert Barr, Rhonda and Bert Barr, Geraldine and Bennie Beckham, Sara Brunson, Debra and Bill Carr, Pam and Trot Carroll, Nancy and Jon Chancey, Mandy and Roger Collier, Marie and Billy Carter, Mary Helen and Ross Cotter, Jayne Gibson, Jennifer and Mickey Grimes, Sue and Joe Herod, Carol Ann and Forrest Jones, Gloria Jones, Pam and Jack Harrell, Kay and Jesse Hill, Pat and Burkett Howard, Glenda and Bo Lee, Joan and Scott McArthur, Felicia Metcalf, Donna and Bill Morris, Evelyn and Yancey Parker, Melissa and Addison Paul, Sandra and Jack Pugh, Mary Hart and Wayne Roberts, Gail and Joe Paul Stewart, Pamela and Maxie Seary, Phyllis and Joe Talmadge, Claire Vickers, and Faye and Ellis Wise served as hosts for the event.

The home of Mrs. Charles William Crowell on Willow Drive was the setting of a bridal tea hosted by friends of the bride. Mrs. James Wallace Muller coordinated the event. Assisting Mrs. Muller were Barbara Albersen, Freddie Alford, Deb Brunson, Nancy Brunson, Reba Blissette, Charlotte Clark, Frances Crocker, Ann Carmichael, Wanda Dozier, Pansy Elliott, Nancy Ellis, Ruby Crumpler, Nancy Davis, Peggy Graham, Mary Henderson, Shirley Holland, Barbara Key, Betty Lewis, Mary Alice Logan, Pam

paper towels and ice will be provided. Teachers and anyone who attended Pine Level School are invited to attend.

C.C. Arts Alliance receives grant to be used for Piney Woods Festival

The Alabama State Council on the Arts awarded \$211,070 worth of grants during its quarterly council meeting held in Montgomery on March 10 and 11.

Coffee County received one grant for the Coffee County Arts Alliance in the amount of \$3,850. The grant will be used to support the Piney Woods Festival, marketing and other costs directly related to the project.

Selection for this highly competitive scholarship is based on the evidence of significant leadership positions and the strength of recommendations from educational leaders who are familiar with the student's involvement in leadership roles.

The Leadership Scholar is required to complete a minimum of 13 semester hours of academic course-work per semester and maintain a high cumulative grade point average.

The recipient is further required to become involved in co-curricular activities at Samford and maintain high standing in social and residential areas of campus life.

Vaughan Boyd, a senior at Elba High School, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. L. A. Boyd IV.

# LIFESTYLES

## Traditional ceremony unites Brunson-Doom

Elizabeth Foye Brunson and Jason Woodrow Doom were united in marriage January 15, 2000 at the First Baptist Church of Enterprise. Dr. Frank Sidney Wells and Rev. Terry Taylor, Norman, Okla. officiated at the 3 o'clock traditional ceremony.

The bride is the daughter of Mrs. Charles William Crowell and the late Dr. Emmett Thomas Brunson. Enterprise. She is the granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. Orlyster Marvin Jones and the late Dr. and Mrs. Emmett Treadwell Brunson, all of Samson.

The bridegroom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Rommie Woodrow Doom, DeVal's Bluff, Ark.

A pre-nuptial program of sacred music was presented by Mrs. Thomas Wickes, organist, Dr. Patricia M. Muller, pianist, Steven Thompson, trumpeter, Sara Elizabeth Werland, classical guitarist and Lisa Michelle Walton, vocalist.

Given in marriage by her maternal grandfather, the bride wore a matte satin gown featuring a jewel neckline with a pleated cummerbund waistline. A prominent box pleat fashioned the a-line skirt. Her veil of Brussels rose point lace was accented with a tiera of seed pearls and iridescent gems. She carried a traditional clutch bouquet of vogue, anna and porcelina roses with touches of borvardia and genestra lilies.

The sanctuary was illuminated by large ivory pillar candles interspersed within the arrangements of ferns, with spiral votive candles completing the setting. The Trinity motif was enhanced with three floral designs placed on traditional columns. The central column held a massive arrangement of ginger, gladioli, alstroemeria, carnations, snapdragons, dendrobium orchids, and Virginia roses.

Jennifer Terry Douglas, Bossier City, La., served as matron of honor. Bridesmaids were Catherine

Amanda Erwin, April Kay Lamers, Fort Worth, Texas, Heather Leigh Hagins, Charlotte, N.C., Leah Annette Herod, Enterprise, Kimberly Kreiling, Vancouver, British Columbia and Amy Dixon Lazenby, Birmingham, Ala. officiated at the 3 o'clock traditional ceremony.

Honorary bridesmaids were Rachael Thompson Brunson, sister-in-law of the bride, Christy Lynn Byrd, Enterprise, Stephanie Byrd Barfield, Fayetteville, Ga., Amy Michelle Lewis, Tuscaloosa, Debra Herod Roberson, Decatur, Kimberly Ann Soucek, Boone, N.C. and Serena Jenkins Stewart, Boosier City, La.

William Patrick Wright, Arkadelphia, Ark., served as the groom's best man. Groomsmen were Emmett Treadwell Brunson II, Eric Thomas Wickes, organist, Dr. Patricia M. Muller, pianist, Steven Thompson, trumpeter, Sara Elizabeth Werland, classical guitarist and Lisa Michelle Walton, vocalist.

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## SPORTS

Views from....

## THE PRESSBOX

By Ricky Mularz, Sports Editor

Melanie has been playing softball ever since she was old enough to swing a bat, but until last week she had never had a new glove of her own. She didn't have to wear her sister's hand-me-downs since big sister was left-handed, but somehow we always managed to find an old glove somewhere that was in good enough condition, and Melanie never complained and used what ever glove she had. Last week Melanie asked for a "new glove," and there was no way I could turn her down. So, she now has a new glove of her own, and maybe she will be able to keep up with it for many years to come, and hopefully it will serve her well.

## THUMBING THROUGH A DESK FILLED WITH NOTES....

\*\*\* The Elba Tigers bounced back from a disappointing loss to Red Level last Tuesday to defeat Slocomb 9-8 to push their record for the season to 5-2, 2-0 in Area 3 play. The Tigers won their 1-2 pitching punch of Brooks Creel and Brandon Satterfield for a total of 24 hits and 14 runs in the two games. However, the biggest concern of Coach Wynn Grimes after the week's action was the lack of overall team hitting. He was obviously referring to leaving the bases loaded in the bottom of the seventh in the loss to Red Level, and said that his players had to get more aggressive, and quit waiting for the umpires to make a call. The Tigers are off to one of their best starts in years, and if the pitching can continue to improve, and the bats wake up a little, they could be looking at a really big season.

\*\*\* The Elba Lady Tigers competed in the Andalusia High School Invitational last week and posted a 3-2 record to claim third place in the 12-team tournament. The Lady Tigers pounded the softball in their opening three wins and scored a total of 54 runs in the three games, but then managed to score only one run in a loss to G.W. Long, and were eventually eliminated by the same Red Level team that they had ripped only two games earlier. The Lady Tigers led the tourney with a 6-2 record for the season, and both the players and coaches now know just where improvements have to be made. With six seniors and four juniors in the starting line-up, the Lady Tigers certainly have the maturity and experience to make those adjustments, and to keep on winning.

\*\*\* The Elba Department of Parks and Recreation will host its first ever youth baseball camp on Saturday, April 1 (no fooling!), and the camp will be free for players ages 6-12, with the camp being divided into three different groups. Greg Hanchev, an Elba resident that has a very popular camp early each spring, will head up the camp, while coaches in the leagues and high school baseball players will join in and give those players taking part individual instruction. It is hoped that the camp will become an annual event, and everyone is invited to come out and watch these youngsters continue their learning process in the sport.

\*\*\* I have never been one that believed in naming places after people, but last week I met with Elba High School principal Danny Weeks and once again expressed my firm belief that the Elba Tigers should play football on "Mack Wood Field." The school officials can keep the stadium named Tiger Stadium, but Coach Wood was the winningest coach ever in the history of Elba Tiger football and guided the Tigers to two state championships, and deserves the field named in his honor. Coach Wood not only led his teams to wins, he also cared for the old Tiger Stadium field after the 1990 flood and through countless hours of work had the field back in shape for the very next season, and helped design and care for the new Tiger Stadium. Over the years it is easy to forget the importance of someone no longer around. By naming the field for Coach Wood, his name and the rich history of Elba Tiger football would be renewed annually every time a team kicked off a new season. Elba fans should know now, more than ever, just what a great coach Mack Wood was, and I urge school officials to honor Coach Wood with this honor. He is not only Elba's winningest coach ever, he is also in the Alabama Sports Hall of Fame and the Wiregrass Sports Hall of Fame. Others have honored him, now it's our turn.

\*\*\* In closing, I have been able to watch a few games in the NCAA tournament, and have been somewhat surprised with the outcome of a few games. There are no real sleepers left, but it is still very much in the air who will make it to the Final Four. I do plan on watching a lot more games this week, and hope to join the madness.

## HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL &amp; SOFTBALL SCHEDULE

## BASEBALL

THURSDAY, MARCH 23  
Opp at Elba  
Florala at Brantley

FRIDAY, MARCH 24  
Straughn at Elba

## SOFTBALL

THURSDAY, MARCH 23  
Elba at Geneva (4:00)  
Samson at Elba JV (3:30)  
Florala at Brantley  
Zion Chapel JV at Headland

## Now Accepting Applications

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3-Bedroom Townhouses

Units available for elderly, handicapped &amp; disabled

Included FREE!

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## Tigers outscore Slocomb 9-8 to improve area slate to 2-0

The Elba Tigers came from behind on three separate occasions Friday night to post an exciting 9-8 win over the Slocomb Red Tops, in Elba.

The win improved Elba's record to 5-2, and gave the Tigers a 2-0 slate in Class 3A, Area 3 action. Slocomb plated three runs on the top of the first to grab a quick lead, only to see the Tigers score two runs in the bottom of the frame to pull within 3-2.

The Tigers got on the scoreboard when Brooks Creel singled, stole second and then raced home on a triple by Dustin Stinson. Stinson later scored on a wild pitch, and after one inning of play the Red Tops were on top 3-2.

Slocomb increased its lead to 5-2 in the top of the second, but the Tigers again bounced right back, and this time scored three runs of their own to pull into a 5-5 tie.

A walk to Pete Manning, a single by Kyle English and a walk to Jason Curran loaded the bases for Elba with no outs, and all three Tiger runners crossed the plate when Brooks Creel delivered a bases-clearing double.

Slocomb regained the lead 6-5 in the top of the fourth, however, this time the Tigers rebounded with a vengeance. As they scored four runs to move ahead 9-6.

Kyle English singled, stole second, and raced home on a triple by Jason Curran to pull Elba even at 6-6, while Justin Stinson later delivered a two-run double to put the Tigers back on top at 8-6. Stinson scored on a sacrifice fly off the bat of Brandon Satter, and after four innings Elba was ahead to stay with a 9-6 advantage.

Slocomb pushed across two runs in the sixth to pull within 9-8, but the Tigers held on and escaped with the exciting 9-8 area win.

Kyle English got 3 hits to lead Elba at the plate, while Dustin Stinson and Brooks Creel added 2 hits each. Creel was the winning pitcher for the Tigers as he pitched 7 innings, allowed 13 hits and recorded 6 strikeouts.

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## Lady Tigers win three games, place third in Andalusia softball tourney

The Elba Lady Tigers traveled to Andalusia last weekend to compete in the 4th annual Andalusia High School Invitational and claimed three wins before being ousted to bring home the third place trophy in the 12-team event.

The Lady Tigers won their opening three games of the tournament over Brantley 17-0, Wicksburg 10-4 and Red Level 18-10, but were eventually eliminated by the same Red Level 9-1, and were eliminated by the same Red Level 9-1.

Following are highlights of the tournament action:

## ELBA 17 BRANTLEY 0

The Elba Lady Tigers exploded for 12 runs in the third inning to bury the Brantley Lady Bulldogs 17-0, in opening round action. Elba had jumped out to an early 3-0 lead in the opening inning thanks to a Melissa Grantham double, while Melissa Grantham and moved ahead 5-0 in the second with Raean McCollough and Oneida Davis both collecting RBI singles. The Lady Tigers pounded out 10 hits in the big third inning, with Rachel Bludsworth leading the way with two singles, while Melissa Mularz drove in two runs with a double and Roshanda McKinnon also added a double that knocked in two runs.

Rachel Bludsworth got 3 hits, scored 2 runs and knocked in 3 runs to lead Elba at the plate, while Roshanda McKinnon, Melissa Grantham, Michelle Davis and Oneida Davis all added 2 hits. Brantley, which managed only five hits in the loss, was led by D. Burnett with two singles.

## ELBA 19 WICKSBURG 4

The Elba Lady Tigers spotted the Wicksburg Lady Panthers an early 2-0 lead when came storming right back to post a wild 19-4 win. Elba trailed 2-0 before getting a chance to bat, but quickly erased the early deficit as Vaughan Boyd tripled to open the bottom of the first, and by the time the first inning was over the Lady Tigers had moved ahead 4-2. Elba continued to swing the bats in the second inning, as the Lady Tigers combined six hits and two walks to plate eight runs, and grab a big 12-3 advantage. Raean McCollough ignited the second inning fireworks with a lead-off triple, while a key hit in the inning came as G.W. Long handed Elba a 9-1 loss, in the finals of the winners bracket. Elba trailed only 3-1 in the top of the fourth after a sacrifice fly by Rachel Bludsworth knocked in Kandra Vaughan. However, Long pushed across three unearned runs in the bottom of the frame to move ahead 6-1, and held on for the win.

Kendra Vaughan and Roshanda McKinnon both got 2 hits to lead Elba.

## RED LEVEL 19 ELBA 9

The Elba Lady Tigers saw their tournament run come to an abrupt end when Red Level broke loose late to dump the Lady Tigers 19-9. A triple by Vaughan Boyd and RBI singles by Kendra Vaughan and Melissa Grantham helped Elba pull out to an early 3-1 lead, and Elba remained on top through three innings, thanks in a large part to a three-run homer by Casey Skinner. Red Level scored three runs in the fourth to sneak back ahead 9-8, and then plated ten runs in the fifth to take complete control and post the win.

Casey Skinner got 2 hits and knocked in 3 runs to lead Elba, while Melissa Grantham also added 2 hits and Roshanda McKinnon scored 3 runs.

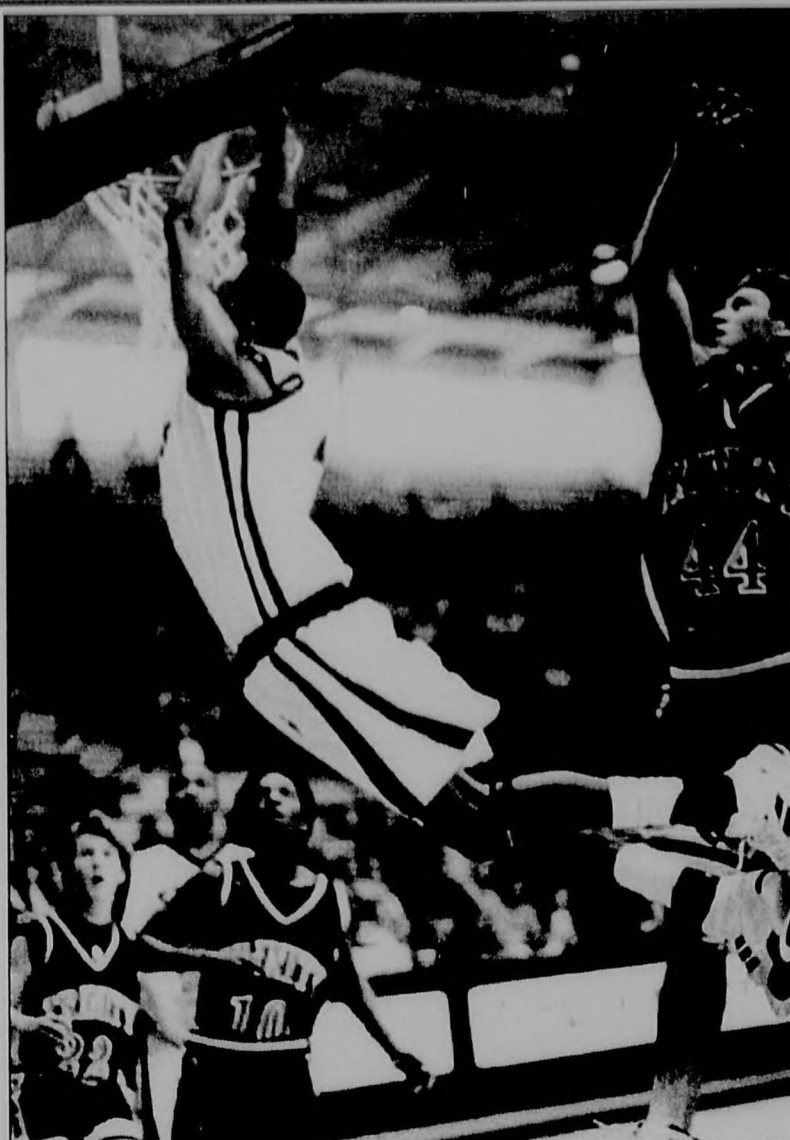
McKinnon leads Lady Tigers at plate in tournament action

Roshanda McKinnon got 9 hits, scored 11 runs and collected 7 runs, and led the Lady Tigers in the tournament, while Melissa Grantham added 8 hits and knocked in 10 runs, and Vaughan Boyd also added 8 hits and scored 7 runs. Raean McCollough and Rachel Bludsworth both got 7 hits for Elba, while Kendra Vaughan, Casey Skinner and Melissa Mularz added 6 hits each.

## ELBA 18 RED LEVEL 10

The Elba Lady Tigers remained undefeated late Saturday afternoon with a high-scoring 18-10 win over

## SUPPORT LADY TIGER SOFTBALL



ELBA'S TIM WARE...swinging on the rim after a two-point run in the Tigers' regional game with Trinity, was named last week to the Alabama Sports Writers Association's 1999-2000 "All-State" high school basketball team.

## Elba's Tim Ware named to 3A All-State prep basketball team

The Alabama Sports Writers Association announced its 1999-2000 "All-State" basketball team last week, and named to the prestigious list in Class 3A was Elba Tiger standout Tim Ware.

Ware, a senior forward-center, averaged 25 points and 13 rebounds a game in leading the Elba Tigers to a 25-6 record and the Southeast Regionals this season, and was a finalist for "Player of the Year" honors in Class 3A. "Tim is a complete basketball player and is definitely deserving of 'All-State' recognition," stated Elba's Coach Johnny Dunn. "He worked hard in practice, played hard in the games and was a team leader. He made a mark here at Elba High, and will also make his mark in the junior college and college ranks if he continues to work hard and remain dedicated."

Other area players named "All-State" included (1st Team) Kareem Johnson, of Eufrata; Lynorse Garrett, of Cottonwood; Lushers Lane, of Geneva County; Bobby Coleman, of Pleasant Home; DeMario Wiley, of Brantley; (2nd Team) Terry Horton, of Carroll; Kala Peak, of Geneva; LaKeith Person, of Clayton; Kellen Cole, of New Brockton; Katrina Crabtree, of Calhoun; and Jessica Weathers, of Red Level.

## Tiger golfers place second in Enterprise match to continue early-season success

The Elba Tiger golf team continued its early-season success last week by placing second in a four-team match at the Enterprise Country Club.

Houston Academy won the match with a team total of 332, followed by Elba 339, Daleville 341 and the camps, and while pre-registration is not required, it is recommended to allow camp sponsors a chance to better prepare for instruction.

The camp, which is for players and coaches in the various Elba Hanchev, a former junior college baseball player at L.B.W. Junior College, with other instructors to include former high school players from the area.

Registration forms will be available at the Elba Recreation Center and City Hall, and it is important to remember that the camp is FREE!

The camp will be taught by Greg Vaughan, a former junior college baseball player at L.B.W. Junior College, with other instructors to include former high school players from the area.

Registration forms will be available at the Elba Recreation Center and City Hall, and it is important to remember that the camp is FREE!

Players should bring their own gloves and wear baseball shoes to the camps, and while pre-registration is not required, it is recommended to allow camp sponsors a chance to better prepare for instruction.

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## AREA NEWS

## AEC selects Washington youth tour winners

Three high school juniors from area schools in local municipalities have been selected winners in the annual Alabama Electric Cooperative (AEC) Washington Youth Tour program. The winners will represent AEC at the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Youth Tour program in Washington, D.C., in June.

Colin Brooks, son of Bob and Denise Brooks, of Andalusia High School, Bethany Dye, daughter of Tony and Shirlon Dye, of Elba High School and Laura Bundrick, daughter of Tracy and Linda Bundrick, of Opp High School were selected as winners following an interview and written test competition March 7 at AEC's corporate headquarters in Andalusia.

While in Washington, the local winners will join more than 1,000 students from across the nation and attend seminars with national rural electrification leaders, meetings with their state's representatives in Congress and tours of historic sites in the nation's capital.

Runners-up in the Youth Tour competition were Leslie Benson, daughter of Mark and Cindy Benson, of Andalusia High School, Amber Norris, daughter of Pamela

Lewis, of Elba High School and Jacquelyn Youngblood, daughter of Tony and Diane Youngblood, of Opp High School.

The winners and runners-up will attend the Alabama Rural Electric Association (AREA) annual meeting and Youth Tour program in April in Montgomery, Ala. While in Montgomery, they will join other Youth Tour students from across the state in learning more about rural electric cooperatives and the cooperative concept of business. In addition, students will tour several historic sites.



Alabama Electric Cooperative (AEC) recently announced the winners and runners-up of its annual Washington Youth Tour program. Shown from left, Elba High School's third alternate, Carson Waters; runner-up, Amber Norris; and winner, Bethany Dye. (Not pictured: second alternate Alan Head and first alternate Cammie Kelley.)

Alternates for Elba High School in AEC's Youth Tour interview and test competition were: first alternate Cammie Kelley, daughter of Jerry and Theresa Kelley, second alternate Alan Head, son of Thomas and Sybil Head, and third alternate Carson Waters, son of Mike and Carrie Waters.

As sponsor of the Washington Youth Tour program for 16 years, AEC has played a vital role in providing high school students from its member municipalities — the Alabama cities of Andalusia, Elba and Opp — with a better understanding of rural electrification and its importance to central and south Alabama.

To qualify for the program, each participant prepared a research paper on some aspect of rural electrification. Students also had to answer in a single paragraph "What is the difference between an electric cooperative and a private power company?" The research papers were judged on content and knowledge of subject matter, and finalists participated in an interview and written test competition to determine the winners, runners-up and alternates.

ELBA CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION announces a vacancy for the position of Superintendent of Schools. Statements of interest will be accepted beginning March 13, 2000 through April 15, 2000.

## QUALIFICATIONS:

Candidates must have earned a Masters degree from an accredited four-year college or university; possess or be eligible to obtain an Alabama Superintendent's Certificate; acquire a minimum of 10 years teaching experience with 5 years in administration. The successful candidate will be expected to reside in the Elba City School district.

12-month contract beginning July 1, 2000

Inquires should be made to:

Elba City Board of Education  
Superintendent Search  
131 Tiger Drive  
Elba, Alabama 36323

The Elba City Board of Education does not discriminate against any person on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, national origin, age, disability in any of its educational or employment programs or activities.

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Years of Service...Willie J. Raymond (L) is shown with his supervisor, David Sasser (R), as he is presented an engraved gold watch upon his recent retirement after having worked at Dorsey Trailers for more than 21 years. Mr. Raymond worked as an assembler.



Catfish Queens excited about upcoming festival

Miss Catfish Festival Catherine Cauchy, Jr. Miss Sami Jo Phillips and Little Miss Sloan Cotte invite everyone to be part of the millennium Catfish Festival. Arts, crafts, food and entertainment booths will be set up by 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, April 1, in downtown Arton. The festival parade will come through at 9 a.m. to close the streets for a day of fun and food for all. Local entertainment, along with a talent contest, will provide a background for the other events such as the Little Miss, Jr. Miss and Miss Catfish Festival Pageant and the huge catfish fry. In addition to the booth games for children, there will be several free activities to help make this an affordable day of family fun.

There is no admission charge to enter the festival. Booth spaces are available at \$20 each. Parade entry is free and all area groups and queens are invited to participate. Queen applications are available, the entry fee is \$20. For additional information, call Debra at 762-2019 or Jackie at 762-2266.

## Vertical Horizon to perform at Troy State University April 5

Troy State University will present the alternative rock band Vertical Horizon in concert Wednesday, April 5.

The outdoor concert is scheduled to begin at 8 p.m. at the Adams Student Center, with Angry Salad serving as the opening act. Tickets are free to TSU students with valid university identification or \$10 to the general public. For ticket information, contact the Adams Center Union Board at (334) 670-3207.

Enterprise State Junior College's popular special interest course, Using the Microcomputer - Level II, is offered in a third session this spring semester. This course is designed for those who have experience with keyboarding. Participants will learn the concepts of computer hardware components and database management and spreadsheets using Microsoft Works software. Successful completion of Using a Microcomputer - Level I is recommended but not required. A 3 1/2" diskette is required for the first class. There is



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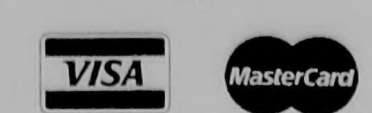
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### HELP WANTED

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**I WILL SIT** with elderly person. Lots of experience. Ref. 897-3440. 3-23-1c

**FOR QUALITY LAWN SERVICE** at a reasonable rate call Dexter Watkins 897-6341. 3-23-1c

**HOUSEKEEPER NEEDED.** Come in 2 times per week. Call 897-6066. 3-16-2c

**CLEANING SERVICES.** Home, office, or just spring cleaning (and want it done right, free estimate). Call 897-8536. Leave message. Have Ref. 3-23-2c

**RODGER'S & SON LAWN SERVICE.** Free estimates. Lowest price in town. Call interest / stop harassment. 1-877-866-6269. Ext. 36 (free). NACCS, helping 1000's since 1990. www.HaveToGoMowBills.com. (R)

**HORSE SALE** every 3rd Friday night at the Coffee County Stockyard. Tack sale 6 p.m. and Horses 8 p.m. Located on Hwy. 84 W. in Elba, AL. For more information, call 897-2540. 9-12-2c

**ELBA INSULATION CO.** Residential or commercial. Batts or blown-in. Fiberglass insulation. Call Earl Eaves. 897-3630. 4-11-2c

**BAKER'S TREE SERVICE AND STUMP REMOVAL** - 23 years of Experience. FREE ESTIMATES. Call 897-2271 after 6:00 p.m. 10-29-2c

**CREMATION** - What could be simpler? Alabama Cremation Centers was created for people who prefer the simplicity and dignity of cremation. For more information, 1-800-721-2262. (R)

**NEED TO advertise statewide?** ALA-SCAN can place your 25-word ad in 117 newspapers across Alabama for only \$195 (additional word \$7.50). Make one call to this newspaper (a participating ALA-SCAN member) to find out how easy it is to advertise statewide! (R)

**START YOUR OWN business!** Set your own schedule. Control your own income. Sell from your home, at work, through fundraisers. Be an Avon representative. Call 1-888-300-8818.

**TEACHER JOB** Fair Spring of 2000 - Dynamic dedicated, diverse - Discover the attraction of Osceola School District. April 24, 2000, 9 a.m., Kissimmee Middle School, 4210 Drive Blvd., Kissimmee, FL 34741. www.wednet.org/ala1212.us - Must register to attend. Free admission. (407) 870-4800. Opportunities include: Elementary Education, Language Arts, Math, Science. Exceptional Student Education and other Special Areas.

**TRACTOR TRAILER Drivers** - No experience, no problem. CDL training & a job. Earn \$35,000 & up per year. Call now: 1-888-776-3748. (R)

**VACANCY - ESCAMBA** County Board of Education Assistant Principal. Escambia County High School. Qualifications: Valid AL certificate with principal endorsement. Master's degree or higher. Minimum of five years successful teaching experience and three years as an administrative / supervisory assistant or comparable out of classroom experience. Deadline: March 31, 2000. Send or fax letter of application, resume, and 3 current letters of reference to: Dr. Margaret A. Breland-Bradley, Superintendent, P.O. Box 307, Brewton, AL 36427. Phone (334) 867-6251. Fax (334) 867-6252.

**WANTED**  
WANTED: Someone to remove approx. 2,600 ft. of wood fence for the lumber. If interested call 897-3088 - days or 897-3711 - evenings. 3-23-2c

**I WOULD LIKE TO LEASE THE HUNTING RIGHTS** on your land. Will need a spot for a camper. Call Weyland: Williamson 850-682-4902, 6:00 p.m. 3-16-4c

**NEEDED: PEANUT QUOTA.** Buy or Lease Any Amount. Call 334/989-6759. 3-25-2c

**WANTED**  
WANTED: Someone to remove approx. 2,600 ft. of wood fence for the lumber. If interested call 897-3088 - days or 897-3711 - evenings. 3-23-2c

**BUS. OPPORTUNITY**  
AMAZING BUSINESS UNITS. Business System, well worth its weight in gold. Area investors needed. 100% guaranteed. Call 1-888-999-8401. 3-16-4c

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**WANTED**  
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### YARD SALES

**YARD SALE - SATURDAY, 25th March.** 670 Smith Ave. Big white house - next to vacant lot. Lots of dishes, linens, clothes, and furniture. 3-23-1p

### FOR RENT

**FOR RENT: 1 BR APARTMENT.** Tractor, 575 miles. All Utilities. Furnished. 347-6415 or 347-9272. 3-16-2c

**2 BEDROOM FURNISHED MOBILE HOME FOR RENT.** Water & Garbage pickup included. \$175 mo. For more information call 897-5602. 3-24-1c

**HOUSE FOR RENT - 3 bedrooms.** 1 bath, brick home. Call 334-897-2132. 3-13-4p

**2 BR TRAILER FOR RENT.** Call 897-6332. 3-24-1c

**HOUSE FOR RENT: 2 BR House.** With Wall To Wall Carpet, Stove, Refrigerator, Ample Cabinet & Closet Space. Call 897-6957. 9-2-1c

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or 897-3289  
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Must have excellent Quickbooks  
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Andalusia area. Must have good computer exp. & able to work any shift including weekends.  
• Accounts Payable Clerk  
Must have a P exp. Word & Excel  
• Administrative Assistant  
Must have Excellent Cust. Svc. Exp. Must also be proficient w/ Word & Excel.  
• Surveyor  
Will conduct surveys in 7 County areas. Must have



# Elba and Zion Chapel beauty queens crowned



Future Little Miss Elba...From left to right: Branna Jackson, 1st runner-up; Katelyn Hatto, Future Little Miss Elba; Anna Marie Neal, 2nd runner-up.



MISS ELBA 2000  
Valiece Moore

Not pictured are:  
Cammie Kelley, 1st  
runner-up and  
Kimberly Ward, 2nd  
runner-up.



Little Miss Elba...From left to right: Branna Jackson, 1st runner-up; Molly McGuire, Little Miss Elba; Branna Jackson, 2nd runner-up.



Jr. Miss Elba...From left to right: Anna Anderson, 1st runner-up; Lauren Moore, Jr. Miss Elba; Mary Katherine Head, Jr. Miss Elba.



MISS ZION CHAPEL 2000  
Kayla Edmon

From left to right:  
Kayla Edmon, 1st  
runner-up; Sarah  
Kelley, 1st  
runner-up; Sarah  
Kelley, 1st  
runner-up.



Future Little Miss Zion Chapel...From left to right: Aspin Mauldin, 1st runner-up; Sierra Parker, Future Little Miss Zion Chapel; Branna Nelson, 2nd runner-up.



Little Miss Zion Chapel...From left to right: Aspin Mauldin, 1st runner-up; Sierra Parker, Little Miss Zion Chapel; Branna Nelson, 2nd runner-up.



Jr. Miss Zion Chapel...From left to right: Aspin Mauldin, 1st runner-up; Sierra Parker, Jr. Miss Zion Chapel; Branna Nelson, 2nd runner-up.

Congratulations to  
everyone who  
competed in the  
2000 Miss Elba  
and Zion Chapel  
Pageants!!

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Announce June  
Wedding Plans



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Dustin Stinson  
Connects For A  
Double



# The Elba Clipper

Volume 103, Number 42 50 Cents Elba, Alabama Thursday, March 30, 2000 1 Section, 16 Pages Plus 1 Adv. Insert

## City of Elba receives \$106,580 grant to begin improvement study on Beaver Dam and Moore's Creek drainage problems

by Ferrin Cox, Publisher

The Elba City Council had very little business to conduct Monday evening, but the business they did conduct was very important for the people of Elba.

City elections this year will be held on August 22 and the run-off (if necessary) will be on September 12th. Voting hours will be from 8 a.m. until 6 p.m. These dates fall between state and county party primaries and the November General Election.

The council agreed to purchase two new police cars under the state bid price, if still available, using some recently approved state grant money. Police Chief R. W. Whitworth explained that the deadline for ordering current model year cars under the state bid has passed, but Elba can probably take the cars ordered by someone else who did not get grant approvals. The council voted to follow this direction if possible.

They also accepted the recommendation of Mayor James Grimes and agreed to use the balance of the grant fund to place video cameras in each of these new cars.

Whitworth gave credit to Representative Terry Spicer and Senator

Jimmy Holley for Elba's success in securing the grant for these new police cars.

The Chief also told council members that the police department will be receiving a new breath testing machine within the next few days. He said officers are being trained to use the equipment properly and will be ready when it arrives.

The Elba Police Department and 12th Judicial Circuit are combining efforts to launch "Operation SAVE" or Students Against Violence in Education.

This will reward students with cash money for reporting situations which are a violation of the law or could lead to violence on the school campus.

The local DARE program recently received a \$1,000 grant, thanks to the efforts of Representative Spicer.

Chief Whitworth showed the council members copies of a letter of appreciation from District Attorney Mark Fuller for the excellent work in recent drug convictions.

The council also named Councilman Winzell Gray as the official voting delegate to the Alabama League of Municipalities Convention in Birmingham.

Mayor Grimes informed the

council members of recent approval of a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) grant in the amount of \$106,580.

This grant is for a Phase I Analysis of Beaver Dam Creek (canal) and Moore's Creek in the city's continuing efforts to floodproof all sections of Elba if possible.

This study is the first stage of a project to improve the water flow in the two creeks during heavy rains, thus eliminating additional flood threats.

Once the analysis (study) is completed, additional FEMA funds can be obtained to complete the flood prevention work called for in the comprehensive study.

The grant is being administered through the Alabama Emergency Management Agency, which has done extensive work in Elba and Coffee County during recent years.



FOOD FOR THE SOUL...Several local officials and citizens were on hand last Thursday, March 23, to help the Elba Chamber of Commerce welcome it's newest member into the city's business arena. The opening of T & R's Soulfood on Jackson Street in Elba became official last Thursday when the Elba Chamber of Commerce recognized the business with a ribbon cutting. Those in attendance for the occasion were (from left to right): Dawn Austin; Jimmy Harrison; Valiece Moore; Miss Elba; Mayor James Grimes; Rev. W.L. Peterson; Molly McGuire; Little Miss Elba; Rosie Taylor, owner; Sierra and Teana Williams; Winzell Gray; Elba City Councilman; Timothy Williams, owner; Kaye Whitworth, executive director of the Elba Chamber of Commerce; Tonya Jones; and Herby McCall.

## Commission meeting deals with bids, garbage & jail

by Marvin McLwain, Editor

The Coffee County Commission, in its regularly scheduled meeting, dealt with bid awards, a little garbage and some jail business.

One of the first items on the commission's relatively short meeting agenda was the awarding of bids for motorgrader blades, publication of the qualified voters' list, equipment rental for landfill work and lawn care for both courthouses - Elba and Enterprise.

Tractor and Equipment Company of Dothan was the low bidder on grader blades at \$19.14 per blade for a total of \$7,656 with a 30-day delivery. The Dothan Eagle was the lone bidder for the publication of the voters' list. They were awarded the bid at \$7,492.16.

The bid for equipment rental of an off-road dump truck and track excavator went to Flint Equipment Company of Troy. Their bid was \$8,450 per month for the dump truck and \$6,750 per month for the excavator.

Faye's Nursery and Landscaping of Elba will be looking after the lawns of both courthouses. Their bid for the Elba courthouse was \$2,200 and \$3,350 for the Enterprise facility. The period of the contract is from April 1 until November 30.

Ms. Justin Burke, a county resident living on Co. Rd. 255, addressed the commission concerning garbage pickup. She told commissioners that last week when she

put out her garbage container, she cut up three cardboard boxes and placed them alongside her container. After the garbage truck had run, she went to retrieve her container and found the cardboard boxes still in her driveway.

"I called the garbage company (MDI)," she said. "And they informed me that they had sent out a letter in January stating that they would not pick up boxes or anything else - only what was in the garbage can."

Ms. Burke complained that in the past, her pick-up day had been changed without her knowledge and this should not have been - "I don't think they should change their date in the middle of whatever the time they're supposed to pick the garbage up."

"Secondly," she said, "According to them (MDI), if I leave the top off the garbage and put my garbage in there and pile it up sky high they will pick it up."

"If a wind comes along, the garbage is going to be flying all over the street... somebody will want to give me a citation."

"They're (MDI) supposed to pick up household garbage, and these were boxes that I bought stuff in...It seems to me that is household garbage. So, there someone here who can talk to them or something?"

Commission Chairman Kayo Lewis, after asking Ms. Burke where she lived, found that she was one of his constituents.

"You're not the first one (to complain) in the last couple of weeks," said Lewis. "We've had several other calls and letters. It seems that this is getting to be a big problem."

Ms. Burke gave everyone a good laugh when she enlightened the commissioners on just how the problem could be solved.

Chairman Lewis, after everyone settled back down, told Ms. Burke to get with Wanda Edberg, the county's solid waste enforcement officer (who was at the meeting), and she would help her in resolving her problem.

Chairman Lewis commented that the garbage collection contract

comes up for renewal in the near future and all of these, and other complaints, will be taken into consideration at that time.

County Administrator Wilson Mobley reported that the "potholes" have been repaired - all fourteen of them. He told commissioners that the county maintenance department had placed 1/2 inch steel rods in each of the potholes.

Mobley also stated that a firm is presently preparing a quote on checking all the jail locks and computerized control panels to insure

Please See JAIL, Page 2

## POLITICAL OFFICE QUALIFIERS

**DEMOCRATIC PARTY**  
Circuit Judge - Place One:  
Thomas E. Head (Incumbent)  
District Judge:  
Steven E. Blair  
Circuit Clerk:  
Mickey Counts  
Probate Judge:  
Gary Watson  
Commissioner Dist. One:  
Linda Westbrook (Incumbent)  
Commissioner Dist. Three:  
Robert Stephens (Incumbent)  
Commissioner Dist. Five:

Winzell Gray  
County BOE Dist. 3  
Steve Hunko  
Constable Beat 8  
Terry Wilkins

**REPUBLICAN PARTY**  
Commissioner Dist. Two:  
Kayo Lewis (Incumbent)  
Commissioner Dist. Six:  
Randy Lunsford  
Jim Thompson  
County BOE Dist. 2:  
Annette Griswold

QUALIFYING DEADLINE April 7, 2000

## Voters approve Constitutional Amendment

Coffee County voters went with the statewide vote in last Tuesday's (March 21) election adopting the Constitutional Amendment which allows an increase in corporate income tax.

The Amendment raises the corporate income tax from 5 to 6.5 percent and the funds generated by the increase will replace the state's lost franchise tax ruled unconstitutional by the U. S. Supreme Court.

Voters of the state in a record low number passed the amendment by an 80 to 20 percent margin. Locally, there were 1,702 votes cast with 1,420 (83 percent) voters voting yes while only 282 (17 percent) voted no. Those voting represented about 6 percent of the qualified voters in Coffee County.

The tax increase had the support of Alabama's business community.

## Area Happenings

**TOWN COUNCIL MEETING.** The New Brockton Town Council will hold its monthly meeting Monday, April 3, 2000, at 7 p.m. in the council chamber located in the City Hall in New Brockton, AL.

**COUNTY BOE MEETING.** The Coffee County Board of Education will hold its monthly meeting Thursday (TONIGHT), April 6, 2000, at 6:30 p.m. in the board room of the Central Office located in Elba.

**BAND DAY 2000.** Elba Band Boosters will sponsor their annual Band Day on the Courthouse Square on Saturday, April 15, beginning at 9 a.m. Many activities are planned, including a variety of live entertainment, arts and crafts, jail for bail, barbecue, a live remote broadcast from WZTJ, Bings, face painting, concessions, and an auction. All proceeds from Band Day 2000 will benefit the band in the purchase of much needed items to continue the proud tradition of a top notch high school band.

**DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME**  
Turn Your Clocks FORWARD One Hour Saturday Night

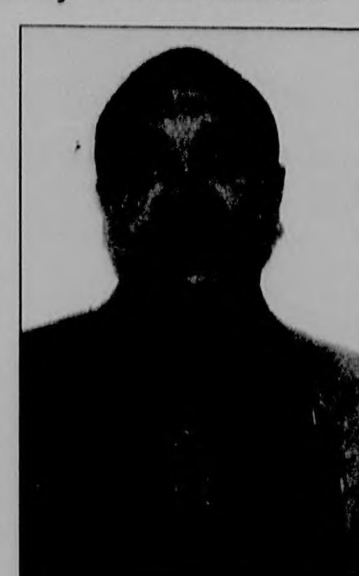
## Winzell Gray enters race for District 5 seat on Coffee County Commission

Winzell Gray, Elba, has officially announced his candidacy for Place 5 on the Coffee County Commission.

Gray is a graduate of Elba High School and attended L.B.W. College in Andalusia, Enterprise State Jr. College and Douglas MacArthur State Technical College in Opp, along with various military schools. He attends Elba Zion Baptist Church and is currently on the Elba City Council. He spent two years in the Army and retired from the Alabama National Guard. Gray is a Lt. at the Ft. Rucker Fire Department and has been with the department for 20 years. He also owns and operates a carpet cleaning business.

Gray said he would like to see the county take a more positive role in the youth and senior citizens. He says he will stand firm on honesty with everyone and do the very best for all of the county. He adds that he will be visible and reachable if anyone has something to voice. He will examine it and bring it before the Commission if necessary.

Gray said he will not only have District 5 at heart and in mind, but



all of Coffee County. He said he will be committed to working with other commissioners to implement various action committees or groups for the county to grow to its fullest ability.

"Working together, we can accomplish a lot," Gray said. His motto is, "I'll be working with the people for the people."